

From: Richard Rupert/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 3/17/2012 6:52:34 AM

To: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC: borsellino.ron@epa.gov; carney.dennis@epa.gov; Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Cynthia Metzger/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Daniel Ryan/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov; duteau.helen@epa.gov; Ellen Schmitt/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Fran Burns/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Gerald Heston/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Heather Gray/R3/USEPA/US; hodgkiss.kathy@epa.gov; Humane Zia/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; John Pomponio/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; JohnJ Butler/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; johnson.karend@epa.gov; Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; krakowiak.john@epa.gov; Michael DAndrea/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; seneca.roy@epa.gov; Shawn Garvin/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; taylor.trish@epa.gov; Victoria Binetti/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Walter Wilkie/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; William Arguto/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; William Early/R3/USEPA/US; richard.fetzer@epa.gov
Subject: Re: WNEP-TV Scranton (3-16) Dimock Residents Question EPA's Water Ruling

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/epa-not-yet-drawing-conclusions-about-full-dimock-picture-1.1286852#axzz1pMyc0Rnr>

EPA not yet 'drawing conclusions' about full Dimock picture

By Laura Legere (Staff Writer)

Published: March 17, 2012

Federal environmental regulators said Friday that they are "not drawing any conclusions" about whether the first 11 Dimock Twp. water test results they described Thursday are representative of the 61 water wells sampled in the town. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a statement Thursday saying that results from the first 11 homes sampled "did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern," but that it will perform additional sampling at three homes currently receiving replacement water and two homes where arsenic was detected.

The first test results represent about a sixth of the data collected by the EPA between Jan. 23 and Feb. 15 during sampling in an area of Dimock where the agency is investigating the potential impact of nearby natural gas drilling on water supplies.

EPA spokesman Roy Seneca said Friday that the results released so far represent only the sampling performed during the week of Jan. 23.

"EPA is not drawing any conclusions at this time" about the entirety of the Dimock sampling, he said.

Of the seven contaminants detected in past water tests and highlighted in a January "action memo" outlining the agency's rationale for its investigation in Dimock, barium, manganese and sodium were detected at low levels in some of the first 11 samples, and arsenic was found at levels that meet drinking water standards in two samples, he said. Phenol, glycol compounds and the chemical commonly called DEHP were not identified in the first 11 samples.

The agency's public statement Thursday was welcomed by the natural gas industry as evidence that its operations have not harmed Dimock water supplies while it was challenged by industry critics who called for the EPA to release the 11 test results publicly.

"We are deeply troubled that EPA Region 3 has allowed its investigation to be employed in the service of the gas industry spin machine before testing is even complete," said Claire Sandberg, executive director of Water Defense, an organization she co-founded with actor Mark Ruffalo.

The EPA is planning to release further test results to Dimock homeowners on a weekly basis in the order in which the homes were sampled, Mr. Seneca said. The agency has also identified seven more homes in the target area - or a total of 68 - where it is working to offer and schedule sampling.

Contact the writer: llegere@timeshamrock.com

Read more: <http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/epa-not-yet-drawing-conclusions-about-full-dimock-picture-1.1286852#ixzz1pMz8wHBh>

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"The commander in the field is always right and the rear echelon is wrong, unless proved otherwise."
Colin Powell

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To: Shawn Garvin/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Daniel Ryan/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, William Early/R3/USEPA/US, Richard Rupert/R3/USEPA/US, Michael DAndrea/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Ron Borsellino" <borsellino.ron@epa.gov>, "Dennis Carney" <carney.dennis@epa.gov>, Cecil Rodrigues/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Cynthia Metzger/ESC/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Driscoll Stacie" <Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov>, "duteau helen" <duteau.helen@epa.gov>, Ellen Schmitt/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Fran Burns/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Gerald Heston/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Heather Gray/R3/USEPA/US, "hodgkiss kathy" <hodgkiss.kathy@epa.gov>, Humane Zia/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Jennie Saxe/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Joan Schafer/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, John Pomponio/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, JohnJ Butler/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Karen Johnson" <johnson.karend@epa.gov>, Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "krakowiak john" <krakowiak.john@epa.gov>, Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, "Roy Seneca" <seneca.roy@epa.gov>, "taylor trish" <taylor.trish@epa.gov>, Victoria Binetti/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Walter Wilkie/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, William Arguto/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 03/17/2012 12:13 AM
Subject: Re: WNEP-TV Scranton (3-16) Dimock Residents Question EPA's Water Ruling

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

----- Original Message -----

From: Shawn Garvin

Sent: 03/16/2012 09:57 PM EDT

To: Roy Seneca; Kathy Hodgkiss; Daniel Ryan; William Early; Richard Rupert; Michael Dandrea

Cc: "Ron Borsellino" <borsellino.ron@epa.gov>; "Dennis Carney" <carney.dennis@epa.gov>; Cecil Rodrigues; Cynthia Metzger; "Driscoll Stacie" <Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov>; "duteau helen" <duteau.helen@epa.gov>; Ellen Schmitt; Fran Burns; Gerald Heston; Heather Gray; "hodgkiss kathy" <hodgkiss.kathy@epa.gov>; Humane Zia; Jennie Saxe; Joan Schafer; John Pomponio; JohnJ Butler; "johnson Karend" <johnson.Karend@epa.gov>; Jon Capacasa; "krakowiak john" <krakowiak.john@epa.gov>; Michael Kulik; "Roy Seneca" <seneca.roy@epa.gov>; "taylor trish" <taylor.trish@epa.gov>; Terri-A White; Victoria Binetti; Walter Wilkie; William Arguto

Subject: Re: WNEP-TV Scranton (3-16) Dimock Residents Question EPA's Water Ruling

Ex. 5 - Deliberative

----- Original Message -----

From: Roy Seneca

Sent: 03/16/2012 09:46 PM EDT

To: Kathy Hodgkiss; Shawn Garvin; Daniel Ryan; William Early; Richard Rupert; Michael Dandrea

Cc: Ron Borsellino <borsellino.ron@epa.gov>; Dennis Carney <carney.dennis@epa.gov>; Cecil Rodrigues; Cynthia Metzger; Driscoll.Stacie@epa.gov; duteau.helen@epa.gov; Ellen Schmitt; Fran Burns; Gerald Heston; Heather Gray; hodgkiss.kathy@epa.gov; Humane Zia; Jennie Saxe; Joan Schafer; John Pomponio; JohnJ Butler; johnson.Karend@epa.gov; Jon Capacasa; krakowiak.john@epa.gov; Michael Kulik; Roy Seneca <seneca.roy@epa.gov>; taylor.trish@epa.gov; Terri-A White; Victoria Binetti; Walter Wilkie; William Arguto

Subject: WNEP-TV Scranton (3-16) Dimock Residents Question EPA's Water Ruling
<http://www.wnep.com/wnep-susq-dimock-residents-question-epas-water-ruling-20120316,0,6916889,print.story>

Dimock Residents Question EPA's Water Ruling

By Jon Meyer

The federal EPA has come back with its water test results on some homes in Dimock, Susquehanna County and now those homeowners are sorting through those results.

Carter Road in Dimock is at the center of a national focus on natural gas drilling's impact on drinking water. The EPA's first ruling is that the water at those homes is safe to drink.

A contractor for the Environmental Protection Agency delivered water Friday to Scott Ely's house on Carter Road in the Dimock area.

The EPA has been doing that since it started testing well water there in January and will continue for now, even though a spokesperson now said initial test results show the water there is safe to drink.

"Why would they make a statement that all our water is drinkable and not only do we have limits that are above and beyond, we have stuff that doesn't even belong in our water," Ely asked.

Inside the house Ely and his neighbor were sorting through all those test results.

Some numbers are highlighted showing the presence of some problem chemicals.

"The bottom line is we've had issues with our water and why EPA would come out and say our water is drinkable, it just baffles me," Ely added.

"You think nothing's wrong with this water up here in Dimock, you come up to any house up here and drink this water," said Carter Road resident Ray Kemble.

Up the road, Jean and Ron Carter are confused by their results too.

The EPA said there was some contamination that turned up in wells. That is highlighted. But the EPA said those levels are in a safe range for drinking.

"I'm baffled. I don't know what to say. I don't know what to think. I don't understand it," Carter said.

The Carters' well and others on the road have been tested many times since they claim Cabot Oil and Gas contaminated the water three years ago.

Tests then showed it was unsafe. Cabot was ordered to deliver water for a while.

The state said that could stop in December. The EPA stepped in with water delivery and testing.

Now the federal experts say the water is okay.

"We want it to be safe. If they can guarantee me that it's safe to drink, I want them to come in and drink it and I'll drink it with them," Carter added.

Th EPA said it will do more tests at homes where certain contaminants showed up in this initial testing to make sure they remain at safe levels.

The initial results were from 11 homes.

The EPA is also testing 50 other homes in the surrounding area.